

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCEM-02 EB-11

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INT-08 L-03 H-03 COA-02 SCI-06

DRC-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 PRS-01 TRSE-00

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R 131305Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6744

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IN

SUBJ: MAPS OF BAY OF BENGAL AND ARABIAN SEA; OFFSHORE OIL
EXPLORATION DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A) STATE A-7195 (NOTAL; B) NEW DELHI 8389 (NOTAL;

C) NEW DELHI 8522 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES RECEIPT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S (RGE) MAPS
OF THE BAY OF BENGAL AND ARABIAN SEA. ALL TERRITORIAL SEA AND
MEDIAN LINE BASE DATA PROVIDED WILL BE OF IMMEASURABLE HELP
TO US AS THE GOI'S OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION CONTRACT PROGRAMS
PROGRESS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR LONG-RANGE PLAN OUTLINED IN
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PARA 2, REF B, WE ARE CURRENTLY TRANSLATING AVAILABLE GOI

STATISTICS INTO USABLE OVERLAYS, COORDINATES, AND OTHER PERTINENT MEASUREMENTS, AND WILL POUCH THESE DATA TO INTERESTED ADDRESSEE POSTS PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF FIELD OPERATIONS BY THE GOI'S OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION (ONGC) IN THE BOMBAY HIGH AREA, AND FOREIGN CONTRACTORS ELSEWHERE.

2. THE GOI'S PETROLEUM MINISTRY/ONGC FOREIGN-CONTACTOR SELECTION COMMITTEE HAS COMPLETED ITS "FIRST ROUND" OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH 12 AMERICAN AND SEVERAL NON-AMERICAN OIL EXPLORATION COMPANIES SEEKING OFFSHORE PROFIT-SHARING EXPLORATION CONTRACTS IN INDIA (THE ROSTER OF NON-AMERICAN FIRMS IS NOT YET AVAILABLE) (REF C). REPORTEDLY, DISCUSSIONS HAVE PROGRESSED SATISFACTORILY THUS FAR, THOUGH FINAL AGREEMENTS ARE NOT YET IN SIGHT. ACCORDING TO GOPAL RAMASWAMY, CHIEF OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT, MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS, NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE RESUMED DURING THE LAST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER, FOLLOWING THE SELECTION COMMITTEE'S RETURN FROM A STUDY TOUR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE AND NORWAY. (THE STUDY TEAM DEPARTED INDIA FOR THE UK SEPTEMBER 11.) WHILE IN EUROPE, THE COMMITTEE HOPES TO DISCUSS ON-GOING CONTRACTS EMPLOYED BY THESE COUNTRIES IN THE NORTH SEA AND EVALUATE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH THE COST AND PROFIT OF EXPLORATION ARE SHARED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS AND THE CONTRACTORS. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR.

SCHNEIDER

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